

Dear Sir:

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED FEBRUARY 26, 2003

In response to the Office Action dated February 26, 2003, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on May 26, 2003, please enter the following amendments and reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below. Applicants have submitted herewith a petition for a one month extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136(a). Although Applicants believe that no fee is due in connection with this response, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge counsel's Deposit Account No. 20-0782/4969/CMP/ECP/NAN, for any fees, including extension of time fees or excess claim fees, required to make this response timely and acceptable to the Office.

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

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Please add the following text to page 1, line 6, after the ".":

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OFFICE OF PETITIONS

et al. teaches each and every limitation in Applicants' claims 7, 8 and 11-13. Applicants respectfully submit that this is not a proper rejection because *Stevens*, et al., is disqualified as §102(e) prior art under 35 U.S.C. §103(c). Please see the attached Statement of Common Ownership. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of claims 7, 8 and 11-13.

In conclusion, the references cited by the Examiner, neither alone nor in combination, teach, show, or suggest the apparatus of the present invention. Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that the claims be allowed.

The prior art made of record is noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicants' disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, it is believed that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not deemed necessary for a full and complete response to this office action. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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